II.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please find below a listing of claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 5. (cancelled)

6.   (previously amended) A method of executing a set of at least one incomplete task, comprising:

    (a)   selecting an incomplete task from the set on the basis of an expected duration for that task;

    (b)   resetting an execution timer having an expiry condition;

    (c)   advancing execution of the selected task until the earlier of (i) completion of the selected task or (ii) expiry of the execution timer; and

    (d)   upon expiry of the execution timer prior to completion of the selected task, suspending execution of the selected task.

7.   (cancelled)

8.   (previously amended) A method of executing a set of at least one incomplete task, comprising:

    (a)   selecting an incomplete task from the set on the basis of a number of times that the task has been previously suspended;

    (b)   resetting an execution timer having an expiry condition;

    (c)   advancing execution of the selected task until the earlier of (i) completion of the selected task or (ii) expiry of the execution timer; and

    (d)   upon expiry of the execution timer prior to completion of the selected task, suspending execution of the selected task.

9. – 10. (cancelled)

11.   (previsouly amended) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein advancing
        execution of the selected task includes beginning the selected task if the selected
        task has not been previously suspended.

12.   (cancelled)

13.   (original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein advancing execution of the
        selected task includes resuming the selected task if the selected task has been
        previously suspended.

14.   (original) A method as defined in claim 13, wherein suspending the selected task
        includes saving a context associated with the selected task.

15.   (original) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein resuming the selected task
        includes retrieving the previously saved context associated with the selected task.

16.   (original) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the context associated with
        the selected task includes variables local to the selected task.

17.   (original) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the context associated with
        the selected task includes a state of the selected task.

18.   (original) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the context associated with
        the selected task includes a state of a central processing unit (CPU).

19.   (previously amended) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the expiry
        condition of the execution timer is a pre-determined number of clock cycles.

20. (previously amended) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the expiry condition of the execution timer is a pre-determined period of time.

21. (previously amended) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the expiry condition of the execution timer is a pre-determined percentage of completeness of the selected task.

22. (previously amended) A method of executing a set of incomplete tasks, comprising:

   (a)   removing an existing incomplete task from the set when a newer version of the existing incomplete task is added to the set;

   (b)   executing the remainder of the set of incomplete tasks.

23. – 31. (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein advancing execution of the selected task includes beginning the selected task if the selected task has not been previously suspended.

33. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 32, wherein advancing execution of the selected task includes resuming the selected task if the selected task has been previously suspended.

34. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 33, wherein suspending the selected task includes saving a context associated with the selected task.

35. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein resuming the selected task includes retrieving the previously saved context associated with the selected task.

36.   (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 35, wherein the context associated with the selected task includes variables local to the selected task.

37.   (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 35, wherein the context associated with the selected task includes a state of the selected task.

38.   (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 35, wherein the context associated with the selected task includes a state of a central processing unit (CPU).

39.   (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the expiry condition of the execution timer is a pre-determined number of clock cycles.

40.   (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the expiry condition of the execution timer is a pre-determined period of time.

41.   (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the expiry condition of the execution timer is a pre-determined percentage of completeness of the selected task.